

The Sandpaper

Naval Air Facility
El Centro, Ca

Volume 5, Issue 11

"Pearl of the Desert"

November 2002

Inside



Girl Scouts/Brownie troop forms at NAF



Sailor checks in as a first class, leaves as an officer

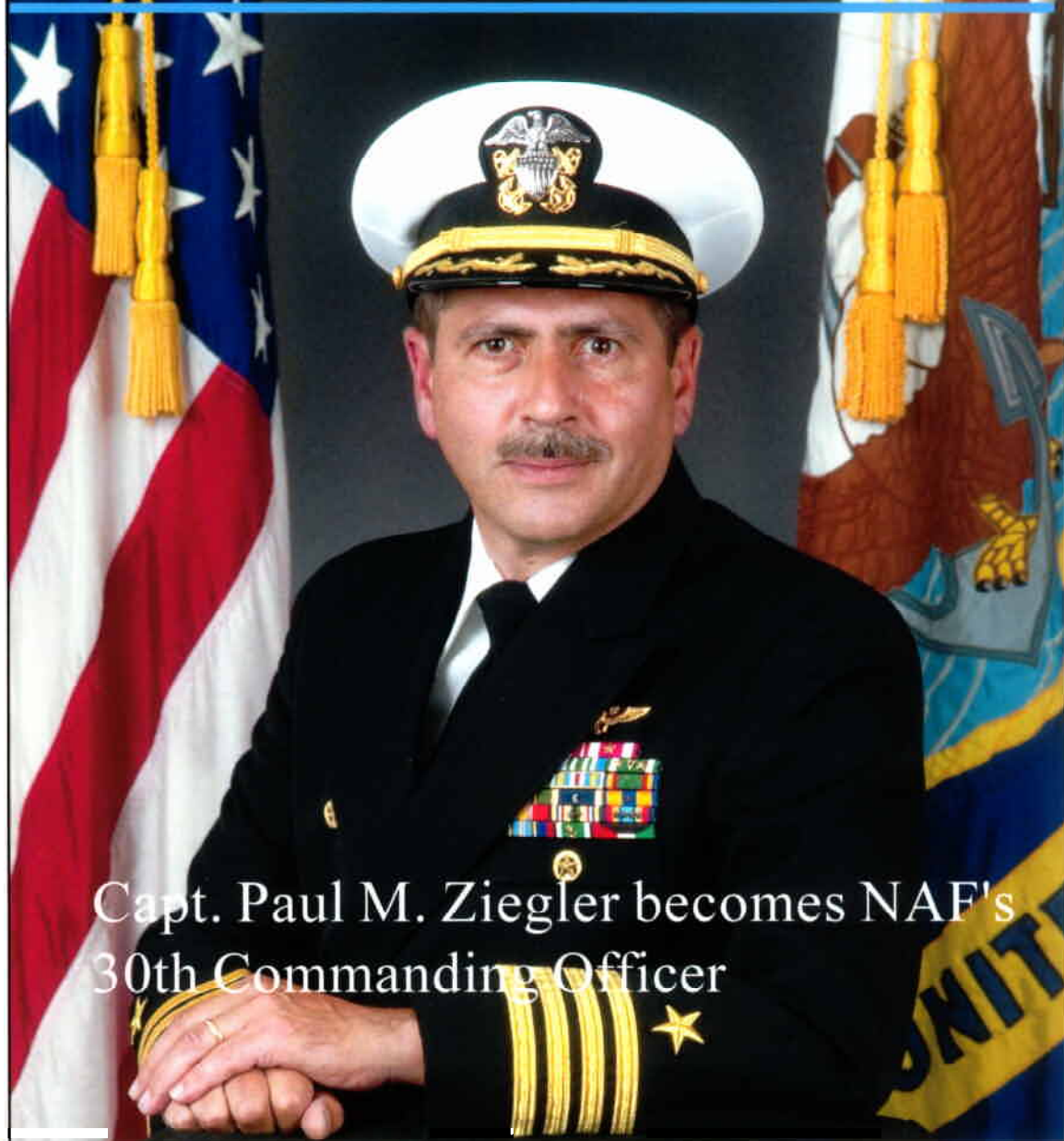


Over 21, I don't think so? Base kids have a blast at the Mirage

Plus

- Celebrating Patriot's Day
- Brown & Root here to help
- NAF participates in Brawley Parade
- Pumpkin Patch Fest
- Who made First and who made Second
- Strike wins Captain's Cup Tournament
- Sailors reenlist and receive big chunks of cash

NAF Receives New CO



Capt. Paul M. Ziegler becomes NAF's 30th Commanding Officer



THE OTHER GUYS IN GREEN

By 2LT Bobby Britton

Army Team Shield OIC

You have probably seen us driving around base, competing in the Captain's Cup tourna-

ments, or as your next-door neighbors. Who we are is often a mystery. We don't wear the blue uniform, and our ship is most often our boots. We are the Cali-

fornia Army National Guard, Team Shield El Centro Detachment.

We keep a low profile because of the sensitivity of most of our operations.

Continued on page 5



From the Commanding Officer

By CAPT Paul M. Ziegler
CO

This is my first chance at the Sandpaper since the Change of Command. I would like to express my sincere thanks to those who played a role in making the change of command and CAPT Crane's retirement ceremony a truly memorable occasion. I would also like to thank all of you who were able to attend the ceremony and provide both our families with congratulations and best wishes. Everyone has helped make our move a pleasant one. We look forward to being a part of this community.

During my first couple of weeks on the job here, I have spent time getting to know the people on the facility, their issues, concerns and ideas. I have also had the opportunity to meet with local community leaders, and businessmen as well as members of the Navy League. I am pleased with all the positive support NAF has from these groups and recognize that the support is based on the efforts of all the members here on NAF.

As far as issues and concerns that have come up during the initial captain's calls I have had, you can be assured that I have several members of the NAFEC team investigating these issues and are already working on solutions. Obviously, some of these issues will take some time to resolve, but they are being addressed. I will provide you with feedback on a routine basis on how we are

progressing. So far I have been able to categorize them into three areas, which are Auxilliary Security Force (ASF), Regular Days Off (RDOs), and a mixture of items that I am lumping into Quality of Life and Quality of Service issues. We are also exploring options to improve our ability to provide information on facility events, special meals at the Galley, the Mirage Club, Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) activities and other special events.

To assist in addressing some issues I am providing an avenue for family input and feedback, I am seeking interested volunteers to fill the role as NAF El Centro's Ombudsman. Many of you are familiar with the program and know we haven't had an Ombudsman for quite some time. For more information on this program, contact Command Master Chief Vince Seay. We may not be a deploying unit, but an Ombudsman can be a great avenue to ensure our family members are well informed and are able to provide an input on issues that concern our community.

We also need volunteers to run the Thrift Shop. Tami Anderson has done a great job keeping the shop in operation, but unfortunately she will be leaving us shortly. The work requires a little time and effort, but it is not overwhelming. We want to keep the Thrift Shop open and available to you. Please contact me, the XO, or CMC if you are interested in lending a hand.



With the holidays rapidly approaching, I know many folks will be traveling and taking advantage of the lull in operations. Please take the time to enjoy the holidays, but also take some time to plan out your travels and allow for delays. Unfortunately, this time of year provides travel challenges from weather to heavy traffic once you leave the clear skies and warmth of the Valley. A trip over the hill to San Diego can become quite treacherous. We want everyone to enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.

Finally, I want to thank you for your support and service to our country, the Navy and this facility. The sacrifices you have made whether as service members, employees, or families have contributed to the continued success of Naval Air Facility El Centro.

The Sandpaper November

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New Admin Officer arrives



Welcome aboard to LCDR Dave Howard who arrived in September. He will be serving as Admin Officer for NAF El Centro.



Free Admission for Past and Present Military
November 3 through November 24, 2002

Veteran or current military personnel and spouse or one party plus up to two dependent children (ages 1-17) get in free!
Free admission offer not valid for special ticket events, including Halloween Hunt.
Proof of military service (DD214, Veterans Administration Hospital ID, or Active Military Service ID) required.

Don't throw away! Pass on to the next reader.



NAF Receives 30th Commanding Officer

By J02 Carmichael Yopez
Editor

On October 25, 2002 Naval Air Facility El Centro received its 30th Commanding Officer when CAPT Paul M. Ziegler relieved CAPT Larry W. Crane at a change of command/retirement ceremony, which took place at the Sports Center on base.

Rear Admiral Jose Luis Betancourt Jr, Commander, Navy Region Southwest was the Guest Speaker.

Crane, who assumed command of NAF El Centro in October 1999, retired following 36 years of military service.

"This is truly an exciting day for me and CAPT Crane," said Ziegler. "The staff here has done a fantastic job for making this change of command a smooth transition."

When CAPT Ziegler directed his remarks to the personnel of NAF, he made the audience laugh when he told them not to take the timing of the change of command and the weekend's turning back of the clock as an omen. "Our mission remains the same, and I am confident that as a team we can work together to meet any additional challenges we may face. No matter what job you



Photos by: AOAN Shannon House

Top: Captain Crane says his last fair wells as RADM Jose Luis Betancourt Jr., and NAF's new Commanding Officer CAPT Paul M. Ziegler stand by. Bottom: Family members and guests flank military personnel during the change of command.

do here, it has an impact on our force's ability to meet current and future taskings in the global war on terrorism and the maintenance of our national security."

A native of North Tonawanda New York, Ziegler took over NAF after serving as the Tactics Development and Evaluation Officer and Assistant Chief of Staff for Training and Readiness for Commander, Third Fleet in San

Diego. Ziegler received his commission in February 1978 after completion of Aviation Officer Candidate School (AOCS) in Pensacola, Florida. He has more than 4000 flight hours, primarily in the E-2C HAWKEYE and over 400 carrier landings. He has served aboard the USS Independence, USS Nimitz, USS Saratoga, USS Tarawa and USS Kitty Hawk. Some of his missions

include Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In 1977, prior to joining the Navy, he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aerospace Engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo. In 1991, he attended the Naval War College in Newport, RI, where he completed the Naval Command and Staff Course earning a Master's of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic studies in 1992.

Since his commission in 1978, Ziegler has flown in various missions and worn numerous hats to include serving as a Pilot Instructor, Executive Officer and Commanding Officer.

His decorations include a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with Gold Star, Combat "V" and Bronze Numeral "2", the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with 2 Gold Stars, Combat "V", the Navy Achievement Medal and numerous campaign, expeditionary and unit citations.

CAPT Ziegler is married to the former Laura J. Smith, of Norfolk, VA.

NAF participates in Brawley's Centennial Parade

The neighboring city of Brawley celebrated its 100 anniversary with a week long festival, which culminated with a parade on Saturday Oct. 12. The theme was "Team up for fire safety."



NAF's mascot, Sparky was aboard the Fire Department's new fire truck.

The NAF El Centro Fire Department took the opportunity to display their newly acquired Crash Fire Fighting Truck. Their mascot, Sparky was riding the truck waving at spectators.



Three-year old Luanna Gutierrez, daughter of Martha Gutierrez had no problem twirling the baton.

A must in every parade, was the A-6 Intruder with LT David Rodriguez, Public Affairs Officer, and LT Richard Braunbeck, Strike OIC, riding in the cockpit.



LT Rodriguez and LT Braunbeck rode on the biggest float of the parade.



Girl Scout/Brownie Troops forms at NAF

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez

Editor

"On my own, I will try to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law." These were the first words the newly formed Brownie Troop recited in unison as they raised their right hand and three fingers during their first meeting last month.

While the new Brownies viewed a movie about the Girl Scouts, mothers discussed the activities and events the Brownies would be doing during the next few months. "They are going to learn about responsibilities, respect, and how to interact with other people," said Brownie Troop Leader, Gabriella Saucedo. "They will be exposed to multiple activities like cooking, camping, and many other things that will help develop their skills. As a reward, they will



The Brownies practiced the Girls Scout motto a couple of times before they could get it right. And even though some of the girls had a hard time figuring out which hand was the right hand, in the end they all got it down.

earn a patch for each thing they learn, or try to do."

The mothers found out about the Brownie and Girl Scout troops

through Seeley Elementary School. After receiving some training, they were ready to start both troops on base.

A few days later Religious Program Specialist Petty Officer 2nd Class Leslie Williams, Troop Leader for the Girl Scouts also met with parents to discuss the Junior Girls Scout Troop. "It is going to be fun," Williams said. "I volunteered because they make you feel young." So far, six girls have signed up. The following Saturday was their first event, which earned them their first badge. They donated bags of clothing to the Salvation Army. This was part of their giving to the community.

The troops meet once a week from 6 to 7 p.m., Brownies on Wednesdays and Girl Scouts on Fridays.

Parents who would like to enroll their children in the Girl Scouts, or Brownies can call RP2 Leslie Williams at 339-2461. Girls must be between the ages of 5 and 7 to join the Brownies, and 8 to 11 to join the Girl Scouts.

From your Career Counselor

By NC1(AW/FMF) Deitrich B. Jones

Command Career Counselor

Receive credit for your military training and experience. The United Service Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) is a program that is registered with the Department of Labor. To participate in the program, you must be in the Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard to earn national certification as a journeyman in specific occupational fields.

The purpose is to document the service member's training and skills learned while performing their military jobs. For more information visit www.cnet.navy.mil/usmap, or stop by the admin office, or call me at ext. 2329.

Always remember, it is never too early to begin studying. The exams are approaching and sometimes it seems like you hardly ever have enough time to study, so start now. Even if you study a few hours per week, it is better than trying to cram four months in one night (usually the night before).

Maybe it's just me, but I believe you owe it to yourself to be fully prepared for the exam, so do what you can. If there is a subject you would like to be discussed in the CCC Corner, drop us a line and we'll see what we can do.

We have another member who just arrived to the Career Counselor team. Stop by and meet NC1 Jensen. She has joined us from the USS Tarawa.

If there is anything we can do to help, don't hesitate to ask.

"....And that's the word on the street!"



Photo by: JO2 Carmichael Yopez

Who are you going to Call?

Not ghost busters! But Brown & Root

By John E. Bishop

Kellog Brown and Root Services

It's late at night and your toilet is overflowing. What do you do? If you lived out in El Centro, or in one of the surrounding communities, you would probably decide to wait until morning to avoid an expensive emergency plumbing service. That is not the case if you live on base. At Naval Air Facility El Centro, you simply dial extension 2204 to arrange for plumbing services. Unlike anywhere else, there is no charge, thanks to the Navy's contract with Kellog Brown & Root Services, a worldwide company headquartered in Houston, Texas.

Kellog Brown & Root has been serving NAF since 1991. For the past 11 years they have responded to more than 70,000 service calls ranging from simple plumbing problems to aircraft accident cleanups.

Brown & Root's contract

includes functions such as pest control, range maintenance, ground electronics, transient aircraft support, supply, food services (galley), family housing, consolidated base housing, utility maintenance and transportation. The contract we have with the base, is based upon a competitive bid, and it is considered a bargain since major corporations throughout the United States compete aggressively every five years for the opportunity to serve NAF.

We are part of the Naval Air Facility El Centro community. We have more than 100 employees who work day and night to keep the base clean. When you see a Kellog Brown and Root truck responding to a service call, or performing a routine maintenance check, you can be assured we are doing our best in contributing to the success of the Navy mission.



Congratulations
to our new
advanced
Selectees

NAF

MA1 David Conley
MA1 Gary Groesbeck
AO1 Chris McClure
MA2 Nickolas Flinga
AO2 Dominic Flores
MA2 Richard Krider
AC2 Lorenzo Lopez
MA3 Capri Griffith
MA3 Jennifer Carlson
AC3 Derrick Hobson
AO3 Yvette Reid

Strike Fighter

AM1 Carlos Carrillo
AME1 Jonathan Parker
ABE2 Thomas Wilson
AK2 Desie Sison
AO2 Paul Dyas
AT3 Sean Shaw
AO3 Eric Birge
AT3 Brian Graft
AT3 Clinton Kotchavar
AD3 Travis Robillard
AO3 Bret Bogozzi
AT3 Ryan Covert
AE3 Hubbard Gravlee
AE3 Michael Lopez
PR3 Tiana Vukovich

Branch Medical

HM2 William Blair
HM2 Joseph Mustafa
HN3 Floyd Barbee

PSD

PN1 Manuel Merlosavila
DK3 Juanita Birge

THE OTHER GUYS IN GREEN

By 2LT Bobby Britton

Army Team Shield

Continued from front page

Currently, we are supporting drug interdiction operations along the Southwest Border. Our main office is located on base, but most of our work is done elsewhere. A lot of our soldiers live in base housing. Although there are soldiers from other units who live on base, we are the only ones with an office here.

We work full time active duty, but we are still considered reservists. Last year, a large number of our personnel were deployed for Operation Noble Eagle, and have recently returned. We also support other units and missions across the state, so we often come and go.

We enjoy living here and the activities the base has to offer.



Photo by: SPC Mirtha Peralta

The Soldiers from NAF El Centro, Team Shield Detachment took this photo at Kear Park, where they recently had their logo added to the fence.

Many of our soldiers are involved with functions on base and often volunteer whenever possible.

We are located on A Street, next to the Blue Angels Building. Feel free to stop by and say Hi, or if you have any questions or concerns for the Army, you are

more than welcome to call us and we'll help out, or point you in the right direction.

Just a reminder, the Army/Navy game is coming soon and even though we know who is going to win, we wish your team the best of luck. Go Army!

\$1500 scholarship could be yours

DeCA Press release—The 2003 Scholarships for Military Children program opens for business Nov. 1 and the burning question is "How has being the child of a military service member influenced your educational goals?" That's the essay topic applicants should consider carefully when applying for the \$1,500 scholarships.

Applications can be downloaded from the following websites:

<http://www.commissaries.com> or
<http://www.fisherhouse.org>

They can also be picked up at the commissary. The deadline for returning applications by hand or

mail to a commissary is Feb. 21, 2003.

The scholarship program is open to dependents, unmarried children (under the age of 23) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military. All applicants must be citizens of the United States.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2003. Students attending a community or junior college must be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year



Photo by: JO2 Carmichael Yopez

Chris Thomas, NAF El Centro Commissary Manager presented Gabrielle Pascua with the last year's \$1,500.00 Student Scholarship. Gabrielle is attending IVC Community College. Base residents who qualify are encouraged to apply.

program. See instruction sheets for additional criteria.

Last year Gabrielle Pascua, daughter of retired Chief Frank Pascua received the \$1500 scholarship for El Centro. For more information stop by the El Centro Commissary.

Tropical Paradise Getaway to Hawaii for Free!

Win a six-day, five-night tropical vacation for two to Honolulu, Hawaii with MWR's Tropical Paradise Getaway

Visit a MWR facility from Nov. 1 through Dec. 16, 2002 and fill out an entry coupon. Entry is limited to one per site per visit, but the more sites you visit, the more chances you have to win!

Drawing will be held on Monday Dec. 23, 2002. Call MWR at 339-2481 for more details. Must be Active Duty to register.





As of September 11, 2002, 3,044 people were presumed dead as a result of all four September 11 attacks. This includes the World Trade Center, Pentagon, airplanes and hijackers.



NAF Observes Patriot's Day

By JO2 Carmichael Yezpe
Editor

"With reverence we remember before you today all those who have died, especially those who departed this life because of the attacks on September 11. You have heard our prayers for those who have survived and live with loss and grief." These were the first words mentioned by Chaplain Bill Cantrell during a ceremony held at the Base Chapel in observance of the first anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

It had been a long time since so many people had gathered for a ceremony of any kind at the Chapel. "We are blessed with a better turnout than anticipated," said Cantrell as people continued to arrive and had to stand as the church was at full capacity. "I thought the ceremony was very moving," said Gabrielle Steinau, Support Services Supervisor for NAF.

Wearing a shirt emblazoned with the American Flag NAF El Centro Facilities/Energy



Facilities Energy Manager, Jerald Kear stood out wearing a shirt emblazoned with the U.S. Flag.

Manager, Jerald Kear epitomized the spirit of patriotism and remembrance.

"I believe September 11 should become a national holiday of remembrance for those lost on that day," Kear said.

The ceremony lasted a little over 45 minutes and included the participation of NAF's Color Guard, and pianist Sonia Farmiento. After Command Master Chief Vince Seay read the names of those who lost their

lives at the Pentagon, the Commanding Officer, the Executive Officer, and Petty Officer Deitrich Jones read from the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Gettysburg Address, and excerpts from Martin Luther King's speech 'I have a dream.' The ceremony concluded with the Invocation given by Chaplain Cantrell. "The message was very heart-felt," said Steinau. "Everybody was dealing with it at their own personal level."

From the Housing Department

By Pattie Crew
Housing Office

October's Yard of the Month Awards were as follows:
Officer:

2nd LT Bobby Britton

Senior Enlisted:

SGT Karneke

Junior Enlisted:

PR3 Weatherford

We also have two awards for CBH: CBH Resident of the Quarter: MSCS Russell
CBH Employee of the Quarter: Maria Villa

The Housing Department appreciates the hard work these individuals put into our

base and through their efforts they help make NAF El Centro a better place to live. We would also like to



thank JO2 Carmichael Yezpe for all he has done for the base. He is always covering activities and recognizing outstanding personnel and we would like him to know how much we appreciate him also. As always, "Take care of yourselves and take care of your shipmates."

Mostly Theatre Company in search of Eeyore's lost tail



A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Tail is a play about Eeyore losing his tail. Christopher Robin and the gang help him find it and they end up having a Merry Christmas. On Oct 10, auditions were held at the Base Theatre. Approximately 15 base residents auditioned for nine parts. The play is scheduled for the weekends before and after Christmas. 11-year old Manee Yezpe, daughter of JO2 Yezpe, was selected for the part of Piglet. The play will be at the Old Post Office in downtown El Centro.





Pumpkin Patch Festival

It was a fun and exciting evening for more than 250 children and adults who came to the Pumpkin Patch Festival on October 29th.

"I didn't know we even had that many children on base," said Religious Program Specialist Petty Officer 2nd Class Leslie Williams who was one of the organizers of the event.

Besides the hot dogs and chips, those who attended enjoyed playing games, pie eating contests, bobbing for apples, and face painting. "I thought it was a well organized event," said LT David Rodriguez. "And even though it got noisy at times it was a lot of fun. There were a lot of original costumes," he added. "You could tell there was a lot of effort that went into the costumes. I think a lot of fun was had by all."

Before the festival was over, Executive Officer Pete Hayes gave Kudos to all those involved in organizing the event.





Over 21... I don't think so

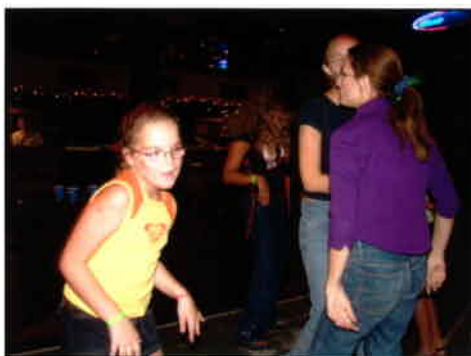
MWR holds Kids Back to School Dance at the Mirage Club

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez

Editor

It wasn't the usual crowd on the dance floor at the Sundowner Club on Saturday September 7. For the first time, the Mirage Club changed its age limit from over 21 to ages 5 to 14 during the kids back to school dance held on base.

It wouldn't have been uncommon to see



Above: Showing their best moves, these young kids displayed no sign of fatigue. Top right: They Played like professionals.

from Seeley. "I just can't get any girls to dance with me."

Strike Fighter's OMBUDSMAN Maureen North organized the dance, and with the help of some volunteers from Strike, chaperoned the dance. "The kids are loving it," said North. "So far we've had about 50 kids show up and they are having a blast."

North said the idea to have the dance actually came from one of the kids. "There wasn't much for us to do on this base," said eight-year old Harlie Carlson whose father works at Strike. "So I told my mom about the idea of having a dance, and that's how it all got started."



The atmosphere at the club was alive. The DJ played hip-hop songs and the kids were on the dance floor showing off their best moves. On the pool tables, these kids who could barely reach over the tables played like professionals. With extreme concentration and serious grins on their faces, they were calling the shots on every move they made. AT2 Michelle Turner, who was a chaperone and mother of eight-year old Adreana, said the idea was great. "Sometimes it seems like the base kids are forgotten. This idea was super. I'm enjoying it, and the kids are having a great time."

Although the dance was only for three hours and was over by 5 p.m., it was a fun experience for the young kids on base. "I would really like to say thanks to the people who made this dance for us," said nine-year old Amber Elliott. "I think they should have these dances for us kids more often."



A group of friends take break from the dance floor to have some snacks and drinks.

the bartender hand over a glass of milk with cookies as patrons who could barely reach the counter filled the club. "I'm having a lot of fun," said 9-year old Ruben Puerta a guest

November is National Military Family Month

By Dr. Flowers

NAF Family Advocacy Rep.

President Bush endorses this annual observance. It gives us the opportunity to honor the extraordinary contributions of our

nation's military families. The Navy supports this effort with special events and ceremonies. Throughout the history of the Navy, the unwavering support of Navy families has always been a source of inspiration. Long de-

ployments, family separations, and frequent relocations are among the many challenges that Navy family members experience. The support of our families in dealing with these challenges allows Sailors to perform their du-

ties effectively to safeguard our country.

We celebrate National Military Family Month to recognize our military families and their invaluable support.

Reenlisted to the tune of almost \$14,000.00

CM2 Philip Benedicto arrived on board NAF on Sep. 9, and checked into the Public Works Department. A few days later on Sep. 16, he raised his right hand and reenlisted for five more years. "I was going to reenlist anyway," said Benedicto with a big grin on his face. "The reenlistment

bonus is just a little extra spending cash, ha ha," he added.

Right: LCDR Chuck Lewis and LT Michael O'Beirne present Benedicto with his check.





National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez
Editor

A brief background: National American Indian and Alaska native heritage month is observed throughout the month of November. The theme for this year's observance is "Honoring Life, Honoring Elders, Honoring Heritage."

In 1992, President Bush proclaimed 1992 as the year of The American Indian, based on legislation by congress. In 1994, he issued a proclamation designating November as National American Indian heritage month.

Distinguished past and present American Indians and Alaska Natives include four Lakota nuns from Fort Berth Old, South Dakota, who worked as nurses for the war department during the Spanish American war; 800 women who served in the military during World War II; the Navajo code talkers, whose unbreakable code helped achieve victory in WWII; Commander



AO2 Emerald Quiver and HM3 Robert Pitka still participate in traditional ceremonies that date back hundreds of years old.

John B. Herrington, U.S. Navy, the first American Indian astronaut selected by NASA in 1996; and Sacagawea, the American Indian woman who accompanied Lewis and Clark on their exploration of the American West in 1804 and whose image was the subject of the first U.S. dollar coin of the millennium. American Indian and Alaska natives have graduated from all four service academies and serve with distinction in the most challenging jobs in the Navy.

Aboard NAF El Centro Native Americans continue to serve their country adding to the great wealth of culture known to the Navy. Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Petty Officer Emerald Quiver is a Native American who belongs to three Indian Tribes, the Lakota Sioux, San Felipe Pueblo, and Navajo. When Quiver is not building bombs, she returns home for the holidays, and participates in ceremonial dances. "Around Christmas and New Years Eve, depending on what our

Tribal Leader decides, we dance the Buffalo Dance, the Corn Dance, the Kiowa Dance, and many others," said Quiver.

The dances are done in traditional ceremonial dress. Depending on what the occasion is, the dances have different meanings; The Buffalo Dance is for good living; The Corn dance is for a good harvest and for rain, and the Kiowa dance is similar to a Pow-Wow dance.

Quiver has also named her 1-year old son Quannah, after a Comanche warrior who fought along with Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Petty Officer Robert Pitka is a Native of Marshall Alaska. When he is not seeing patients at the clinic and returns home where he also participates in traditional dances. "We use dances to tell stories," said Pitka. "We tell stories about hunting, fishing and anything that involves animals."

Pitka says the dances are done in ceremonial dress and uses their native language (Yupik). "We use body expression and hand movements to tell our story," Pitka said.

Veterans Day a day remembered

By Richard B. Myers
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Veterans Day is always a solemn occasion to reflect on, and to show our gratitude for those who have fought to preserve the freedoms all Americans enjoy today.

This day was established after World War I to pay tribute to those who served in that Great War. In 1954, the day's significance was expanded to honor all the soldiers, Sailors, airmen, marines, coastguardsmen, and merchant marines who have worn our nation's uniform.

Today we find ourselves in the midst of a non-traditional war against a very elusive enemy. Like those before us, we serve in demanding conditions, and our mission — like theirs — requires courage, vision and self-



lessness. Today's men and women in uniform seek to build upon the strong foundation laid by America's veterans. The Joint Chiefs of Staff and I join all Americans in paying tribute to our veterans. They have created a legacy that all of us in uniform strive to uphold. May God continue to bless America, and the veterans who so valiantly served her.

Have you tried the new
Bowler Burger

BOWLING CENTER
BOWLER BURGER!

Bowler Burger
7.99 Pound Burger served with Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato and French Fries or Onion Rings!
Quicken your hunger with this giant burger, only \$4.99!
Blinkin' N Things available at all times

Only for those with a big appetite



From crows to bars in less than a year

By JO2 Carmichael Yepez
Editor

He hadn't received his pay as a Chief yet, but that didn't matter, because now he was going to get paid as an officer. Less than a year ago, he checked into the Weapons Department as a 1st Class Petty Officer. He soon made Chief, and in February of 2002, applied for the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) program. A day before his departure from NAF, he was proudly standing before his shipmates, close friends, and family members as he traded his anchors for bars. On October 1, Aviation Ordnanceman Chief Petty Officer (AW/SW) Michael Klaphake was commissioned as an Ensign at a ceremony held at Blue Angels Park.

"I'm excited and nervous. Its like wow," said Klaphake.

At the ceremony Commanding Officer CAPT Larry Crane recognized Klaphake's

achievements and explained how important the LDO program is to the Navy. "Since 1948 the Navy noticed we were loosing good personnel with great skills. This is why the LDO and CWO officer programs were created and ever since then they have evolved. In 1983 the O-5 cap was lifted on the Limited Duty Officer program and now they can make the rank of Captain," said Crane. "These Sailors are highly competitive technical managers. This is going to be a special day for Chief Klaphake. He's about to take one more step, a step that will change his approach to the Navy. It is a big transition, but he will succeed in a field of successful men. To Chief Klaphake I say congratulations in becoming a United States Officer."

Klaphake's father, Mr. Florian Klaphake, and Weapons Chief, Jeffrey Elliot, removed the Chief's anchors. His wife Lydia and his mother Doreen Klaphake pinned



Above: Ensign Klaphake takes the oath of office. Right: Wife Lydia places one of the new shoulder boards on Ensign Klaphake.



on the Ensign's new shoulder boards. Once he was commissioned, his stepson Mark Crane, a Staff Sgt. in the Marine Corps, rendered his first salute. Klaphake then passed down his anchors to Aviation Ordnanceman Petty Officers 1st Class John Cleary and Rocky Loomis. This is a Naval tradition signifying in the eyes of Ensign Klaphake that the two recipients are ready to become Chiefs. They

were each given one anchor and the other is to be earned.

The following day Klaphake transferred to NAS Pensacola for Officer Indoctrination School. In December he will report Aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln where he will serve as the Ship's Air Gunner.

Father Reenlists Son

By JO2 Carmichael Yepez
Editor

It was a proud moment for father and son on Tuesday Oct. 8 when NAF Fire Training Chief David Conley (head of house hold), reenlisted his son David Conley (kid) at a small reenlistment ceremony at Security. "I was very proud," said Conley. "When my son asked me to reenlist him, I thought it was a privilege." Conley also received a \$2,300 reenlistment bonus.



New Mother reenlists and receives \$27,999.00

The month of October will be a month Aviation Ordnanceman Petty Officer 3rd Class Misty Darden will always remember. Three weeks prior to her reenlistment her son Asher Royce was born. Then on Oct. 10, Petty Officer Darden reenlisted and received a bonus check of \$27,999.00. Wooh Hoo!





Above: LT Miranda and LT O'Beirne assist an elderly woman in a wheel chair to the stands. Below: After helping a boy up the stairs he asks to take a picture of IT3 Nelson.

Sailors lend a hand

By J02 Carmichael Yopez
Editor

That is just what 15 Sailors did during this year's Special Cattle Call Rodeo; they volunteered to assist those with special needs to attend the rodeo.

Every year the city of Brawley holds its annual Cattle Call Rodeo during the month of November. But a few days before, the Stockman's Club of Brawley, holds a special rodeo for the elderly and handicapped. This year approximately 500 people with special needs attended. This is



where the lending hand from NAF El Centro came in, as Sailors assisted those in wheel chairs from the buses to the bleachers.



From left to right: Lt Michael O'Beirne, AO3 Michael Hodgkin, AOAN Autumn Hoffman, AC1 Scott Margetta, AO3 Kelly Elhers, AO2 Scott Morano, IT3 Laura Nelson, ITC Jon McPherson, AC1 Deitrich Jones, ET1 Michael Manning. 2nd row: SKC Francisco Diego, LT Ernuel Miranda, Mrs. Floreen Jones, AOAN Justin Hall, and AME2 Collen Seawell, and ITCM(SW) Doug Lattimer who took the photo were this years volunteers.

September Quarters

We skipped the September edition of the Sandpaper due to a busy schedule. however, something we could not miss would be to post our outstanding Sailors and civilians for September. Quarters was held September 26, where Executive Officer Pete Hayes presented the following awards.



DCC James Strickel received a Good Conduct Medal



Dale Hunt received a Civil Length of Service award.



ITC Jon McPherson received a Good Conduct Medal.



AO3 Amanda Perkins received a Letter of Commendation.



MA2 Gary Groesbeck received a Letter of Commendation

Welcome Aboard



Photo by J02 Carmichael Yopez

Welcome aboard to our new Sailors and their families. From left to right: ABAN Michael Lopez (Strike), ATAN Aaron Haglund (Strike), AEAN Stephen Smith (Strike), and AEAN Charles Wilson (Strike) Front row: MA3 Anthony Houthoofd (Security), CM2 Philip Benedicto (Public Works), and PN3 Elizabeth Lucio (PSD).



NAF's New Chiefs



Sept. 16 was a big day for SKC(SW) Francisco Diego from Supply Department and ITC(SW) Jon McPherson from the IRM Department when they were appointed as Chief Petty Officers at a ceremony at the Mirage Club.

"I felt like I was on Cloud Nine, when the CO first told me," said Diego. "I plan to continue working hard and to help out those who are under me."

"I had two goals when I came in the Navy. One was to get my ESWS and the other was to put on Khakis," said McPherson.



Attention to Quarters

By J02 Carmichael Yopez

Editor

Base quarters was held October 17 at the Base Theatre. Left: Master at Arms 1st Class Petty Officer Richard Connors received a Good Conduct Medal. Above: It was a big list of names for Executive Officer Pete Hayes to award at one time, so he asked all the recipients of a Letter of Appreciation to come up on stage at one time. The letters were given to all the members of the Navy Ball Committee for a job well done. From Left to right. SKC(SW) Francisco Diego, AO1 Rocky Loomis, ET1 Michael Manning, J02 Carmichael Yopez, HM2 Ricardo Torres, STG2 Ivan Snyder, AG3



Bobbi McLane, Laurie Bauer, Connie Callaway, Ashley Cleary, Mike Reese, Lilia Rubalcava, and AD3 Easton Simmons. Approximately 200 people attended this year's Navy Ball.



Strike named NAF's top Athletes

By J02 Carmichael Yopez

Editor

Of a total of eight teams, Strike Fighter Pacific, Maintenance Unit won this years Captain's Cup Tournament with a total of 36 points, the highest score ever achieved since the beginning of the Captain's Cup

tournament in 1990.

Brown & Root Services (BOSE) came in 2nd place with 16 points, and Khakis placed 3rd with 14 points.

Captain's Cup is a series of sports events, which take place through out the year. Teams earn points for each event. The sports include Ping Pong, Billiards, Over the Line, Soft-



ball, Golf, Wallyball, Raquetball, Basketball, Bowling, Volleyball, and Flag Football.

Before handing over the trophy CAPT Crane praised Aviation Ordnanceman Petty Officer 1st Class Jay Bauer, one of NAF's top athletes. "Petty Officer Bauer, you are a very well rounded sports athlete. I appreciate the fact you have participated in every event and also officiated in the majority of them," said Crane. "Captains Cup is a very important program on this base. It is a big morale booster and a great way to get our troops involved in sports."